GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:961
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
PERFORMANCE OF METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of trained employees regarding forecasting and inadequate computing, the meteorological department of the country is legging behind by ten years compared with Western Countries;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to meet the requirement of trained employees and computing machine system in order to include India in the list of leading weather forecasting countries of the world;

(c) whether the Government is reviewing this fact that 70 percent investment is made on trained labour in developed countries whereas this figure is only 20 percent in our country; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bring expenditure on trained labour at a par with developed countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is one of the oldest National Weather Service of the world. It has completed more than 125 years of dedicated service to the nation. IMD has a well organized training institute imparting training to its officers and staff and also to the officers from Indian Navy, Coast-Guard, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology etc. and developing countries of southeast Asia and Africa. IMD`s Central Training Institute at Pune is functioning as one of the Regional Meteorological Training Centers of the World Meteorological Organisation, Geneva.

IMD's forecasts are at par with the forecasts issued by other countries in the tropics. Weather development in the extratropics (north of 30Â° N latitude) are more systematic and hence forecast in those countries are comparatively better.

IMD introduced computers in weather analysis and forecasting as early as 1973 and has been upgrading its computing facilities from time to time. Computing facilities have also been provided in observing systems. Upper Air and Radar observations are now fully automated. A dedicated computer system is working for reception and processing satellite data at Delhi and for data archival at National Data Centre, Pune. Upgradation of computing facilities is an ongoing exercise and will be taken up as and when required.

(c) and (d) The Government do not have data on investment by the government on trained labour vis-Ã -vis the figures in developed countries.